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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Treasurer, Selectmen, Auditors,

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BOSCAWEN,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1874.

CONCORD, N. H.:

PRINTED BY THE REPUBLICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.

1874.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
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REPORT

OF THE

TREASURER OF THE TOWN OF BOSCAWEN,

FROM MARCH, 1873, TO MARCH, 1874.

The treasurer charges himself with the following

RECEIPTS.

1873. Received of—

March	27.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1872,	\$50.00
	28.	D. F. Kimball, treasurer for 1872-3,	108.66
April	2.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1872,	50.00
May	2.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1872,	50.00
	14.	J. H. Flanders, on note,	50.00
	21.	Selectmen,	1,621.33
June	14.	David E. Jones, on his collection of taxes of 1871,	74.00
	17.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	500.00
	23.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	310.00
	25.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	171.00
	27.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	305.00

Received of—		
June	28. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	\$135.00
	30. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	1,219.71
July	1. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	2,692.56
	3. Selectmen,	219.00
	5. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1872,	50.00
	28. Selectmen,	2,480.42
Aug.	5. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1872,	78.09
	26. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	122.00
	27. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	120.00
Sept.	1. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	200.00
	1. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1872,	75.00
	5. J. H. Flanders, on note,	50.00
	16. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	226.00
Oct.	23. David E. Jones, on his collection of taxes of 1871,	66.00
Nov.	25. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	100.00
Dec.	6. Selectmen,	2,198.54
	19. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	100.00
	26. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	100.00
1874.		
Jan.	13. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	176.00
Feb.	2. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	150.00
	4. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	100.00
	6. Selectmen,	873.94
	16. J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	225.00
	18. Selectmen,	50.00

Received of—

Feb. 26.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1872,	\$200.00
26.	J. P. Hubbard, interest collected on taxes of 1872,	14.42
26.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	100.00
27.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	413.00
27.	J. P. Hubbard, special collector of taxes of 1871,	44.00
27.	Samuel Choate, on his collection of taxes of 1869,	157.03
28.	Ira Sweat, on his collection of taxes of 1870,	3.58
28.	Selectmen,	21.00
28.	J. P. Hubbard, on his collection of taxes of 1873,	200.00
		\$16,250.28

The treasurer discharges himself by payments made on orders, drawn by the selectmen, numbered from 1 to 114, inclusive, from April 8, 1873, to February 28, 1874,

\$15,144.49

Balance in the hands of the treasurer, \$1,105.79

N. BUTLER, *Town Treasurer.*

BOSCAWEN, February 28, 1874.

MONEYS RECEIVED BY SELECTMEN.

1873.			
March	1.	Cash from the treasury,	\$308.60
	5.	Received of D. E. Jones on his collection for 1871,	60.00
	24.	Received of J. P. Hubbard,	155.52
	24.	Cash paid by selectmen, as rendered in their accounts,	415.46
	24.	Balance in the hands of selectmen,	108.66
May	1.	Received for \$1,600 state bonds sold,	1,621.33
July	3.	state coupons,	219.00
	28.	\$2,500 state bonds sold,	2,480.42
Dec.	3.	from state, railroad tax,	989.00
	3.	bank tax,	1,078.34
	3.	literary fund,	131.20
1874.			
Feb.	6.	from county commissioners for county poor,	432.74
	6.	from state, back soldiers' bounty,	347.20
	6.	for coupons,	144.00
	6.	for wood sold from town land,	11.00
	6.	from John Rines, for stone,	1.50
	6.	Frank Sanborn,	8.50
Paid into the treasury (see treasurer's report),			<u>\$7,572.89</u>

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

Whole amount of taxes committed to J. P. Hubbard for collection for 1873,		\$8,896.65
Amount paid town treasurer,		<u>7,664.27</u>
Amount remaining due from J. P. Hubbard for col- lection for 1873,		<u>\$1,232.38</u>

EXPENDITURES.

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

1873. Paid—		
March 6.	W. H. Sawyer, damage on carriage,	\$2.67
	Auditors for 1873,	2.00
	Joseph Cross, abatement on dog tax,	1.00
	Roswell Prichard, for digging graves, etc.,	10.50
	G. W. Russell, for lighting bridge, and oil,	11.48
	Moses Bean, for horse to county farm,	2.00
	K. H. Batchelder, for sheep killed by dogs,	10.00
	Harvey Atkinson, " "	32.25
	W. B. Burpee, " "	20.00
	Peter Coffin, " "	24.00
	A. C. Flint, " "	2.00
	Daniel Flint, " "	2.00
	Moses Sargent, abatement on dog tax,	1.00
	Republican Press Assoc'n, for printing report,	42.00
	Stamps and stationery,	2.50
April 21.	E. C. Morse, for digging graves,	4.00
May 18.	E. E. Graves, for recording births and deaths,	7.50
Sept. 2.	N. M. Noyes, for digging grave,	2.00
	16. E. C. Morse, for digging graves,	6.00
	18. Joseph Crowell, work on cemetery,	3.00
Oct. 3.	E. L. Batchelder, damage on horse breaking through bridge,	10.00
	13. Selectmen's expenses for paupers,	15.16
	Stamps and stationery,	1.10
Nov. 14.	George Morse, for repairing engine,	9.00
Dec. 3.	E. C. Morse, for digging grave,	2.00
	20. C. J. Chadwick, for graveyard gate,	3.50
1874.		
Jan. 15.	B. Plumer, for water-trough,	3.00
	Frank Plumer, for breaking wagon,	1.00
	26. D. E. Jones, money overpaid on tax-list, 1871,	7.81
	30. Republican Press Association, for orders,	3.50
	Benning W. Sanborn, for blank books, etc.,	11.55
Feb. 5.	John Rines, water-trough for two years,	6.00
	14. G. M. Dudley, for powder, etc.,	1.76

Paid—

Feb. 14.	D. D. Webster, work on road,	\$1.20
	D. F. Kimball, services as selectman, and work on road,	15.00
	Harvey Atkinson, sheep killed by dogs,	10.50
	“ “ poles for railing, and work,	5.25
	S. A. Ambrose, expenses for selectmen,	7.87
	Ellen Plumer, for water-trough,	3.00
24.	E. C. Morse, for digging graves,	4.00
	Dr. E. E. Graves, books for poor children,	2.59
	John McClure, for sheep killed by dogs, 1872,	4.00
	Richard Pevare, for water-trough,	3.00
27.	Engine Co., pay-roll and expenses for repairs,	142.00
	J. P. Hubbard, discount on cash collected before July 1st, 1873,	280.70
	J. P. Hubbard, police services,	10.00
	N. Butler, legal services,	34.60
	Ira Towle, land damage,	12.00
	M. K. Howser, for expenses,	8.75
28.	S. B. Chadwick, selectman's expenses while taking inventory,	2.25
	E. E. Chadwick, for school-book for poor,	.45
	J. P. Hubbard, police services for 1872,	5.00
	F. G. Plummer, notifying town officers,	4.00
	J. P. Hubbard, summoning witnesses in the Kate Green suit,	
	D. F. Kimball, expenses to Concord, for horse-keeping, and office rent for selectmen,	3.00 7.00
	James Brunnon,	2.65
	Jos. Chandler, school books for poor,	3.55
	J. P. Hubbard, sheriff fees in Kate Green suit,	8.40
	D. F. Kimball, for board of selectmen,	35.00

 \$879.04

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

1873.

Paid—

March 15.	Gage, Porter & Co.'s bill, 1872,	\$8.48
15.	C. & J. C. Gage's “	90.40
April 11.	Enoch Morrill's “	10.00
19.	C. E. Haniford's “	5.00
May 15.	Nathan Colby's “	7.00
28.	F. A. Roby's “	2.02

Paid—			
June	27.	J. C. Chadwick's bill, 1872,	\$10.50
July	12.	K. H. Batchelder's "	12.35
	13.	Ira Towle's "	13.50
	30.	P. M. Chadwick's "	12.00
Aug.	4.	J. G. Eastman's "	1.20
	15.	I. K. Gage's bill for stone, 1872,	6.00
Sept.	6.	Leonard T. Silver, for work in dist. No. 6, 1873,	49.72
	18.	S. B. Chadwick, for work in dist. No. 13, '73,	42.33
	18.	Joseph Crowell, for work on road,	8.89
	18.	Alpheus Hancock's bill for 1872,	3.00
Nov.	8.	H. W. Flanders, for lumber,	15.15
Dec.	4.	J. French's bill,	3.00
Feb.	4.	E. G. Wood, bridge plank,	3.60
Dec.	23.	D. F. Kimball, work on highway,	30.00
	23.	George Ham, work on highway,	5.00
Feb.	9.	E. K. Stone, for breaking roads, 1872,	16.67
	16.	Nathan Colby, for rubbl'g pier to Big bridge,	111.72
	16.	Joseph Crowell's bill,	2.62
	16.	N. B. Greeley's bill,	1.50
	16.	L. C. Whitney's bill,	19.52
	21.	M. A. Hancock, for work on road,	4.17
	21.	Eben Moody, for cutting bushes,	8.00
	21.	N. S. Webster, for snowing bridge,	6.83
	21.	G. G. Eastman, work on road, 1872,	7.50
	25.	Town of Webster, for planking bridge,	6.00
	25.	C. E. Smith, for damage to carriage and breaking road,	5.00
	25.	Ira Sweet, for work on road,	2.00
	25.	J. P. Hubbard, "	41.91
	25.	Edmond Atkinson's bill,	4.55
	25.	G. H. Getchell's bill,	2.00
	25.	S. B. Chadwick, on roads and bridges,	20.35
	25.	Charles Hardy, "	3.74
	25.	Roswell Prichard, "	7.67
	25.	Harvey Atkinson, for railing,	3.00
			\$613.89

COUNTY PAUPERS.

1873. Paid—

April	16.	John Hanson, for support of Mrs. Kimball,	\$17.50
	16.	Dr. E. E. Graves, bill for Abiel Hutchins,	4.80
May	10.	John Hanson, bill for Mrs. Dearborn,	10.00

Paid—			
May	19.	W. C. Marden, for Mrs. Scribner,	\$9.75
July	8.	“ “	9.75
Oct.	13.	D. F. Kimball, for keeping strangers,	1.50
Nov.	20.	Hall & Foote, for Mrs. Bassett,	31.62
Dec.	4.	W. C. Marden, for Mrs. Scribner,	9.75
	30.	W. H. Sawyer, for Mrs. Dolan's boy,	9.37
1874.			
Jan.	1.	Apphia Thurston, for support of Nellie, a foundling,	26.00
	13.	Dr. Topliff's bill for Dolan boy,	13.95
	30.	Hall & Foote, for Mrs. Bassett,	8.21
	30.	W. C. Marden, for Mrs. Scribner,	9.75
March	1.	A. G. Kimball, wood for Ransom,	7.00
	1.	“ “ Mrs. Bassett,	7.00
	5.	Carter & Brown, goods for L. Wood's family,	3.49
	5.	Gilman Shaw, for keeping strangers,	6.00
	5.	J. A. Coburn, funeral expenses of Abiel Hutchins,	14.50
	14.	I. K. Gage, for Ruth Johnson,	26.29
	14.	Dr. S. M. Emery's bill for Bassett family,	47.00
	14.	G. M. Dudley, for Julius Ransom,	40.52
	14.	“ L. Wood's child,	2.87
	14.	“ Bassett family,	49.44
	14.	S. A. Ambrose, for keeping strangers,	12.50
	21.	Apphia Thurston, for Abiel Thurston,	12.00
	24.	Dr. E. E. Graves's bill for Jenny Ladieu,	35.00
	24.	“ Julius Ransom,	8.00
	24.	M. K. Howser, expenses for paupers,	13.00
			\$446.56

TOWN PAUPERS.

1873. Paid—			
March	6.	Apphia Thurston, for boarding David Jackman,	\$39.00
	6.	Mrs. Brockway, for Ruth Johnson,	9.00
	6.	Dr. Titcomb, for doctoring Martha Holt, in 1872,	9.75
	6.	Town of Salisbury, for Mrs. Shepard,	5.25
	15.	L. W. Couch, for moving Kate Johnson in 1872,	5.00
	15.	Charles Poiley, house rent for Kate Johnson, 1872,	4.00

Paid—		
March	15.	I. K. Gage, house rent for Kate Johnson, \$17.50
	16.	Enoch Eastman, boarding Mrs. Shepard, 44.00
May	15.	Apphia Thurston, for support of D. Jackman, 51.00
	27.	Enoch Eastman, for support of Mrs. Shepard, 3.50
	27.	J. W. Roby, for support of Mrs. Shepard, 10.42
Aug.	5.	J. W. Roby, for support of Mrs. Shepard, 27.00
	15.	I. K. Gage, rent for Kate Johnson, 25.00
	23.	Ruth Huntress, for boarding George Jackman, 25.00
Sept.	8.	J. W. Roby, for boarding Mrs. Shepard, 16.58
	8.	Ruth Huntress, for boarding George Jackman, 13.71
Oct.	2.	Stephen Jackman, for support of George Jackman, six months, to April 1, 1874, 62.50
	13.	Dr. E. E. Graves, for attendance on Mrs. Shepard, 6.00
	13.	Ruth Huntress, for boarding George Jackman, and money for sending him away, 14.24
	13.	D. F. Kimball, for Kate Johnson, 2.00
	22.	Town of Hopkinton, for support of Mrs. Shepard, 1872, 26.00
	29.	J. W. Colby, for support of Mrs. Shepard, 21.00
Nov.	20.	Hall & Foote, bill for Kate Johnson, 20.32
Dec.	4.	L. W. Couch, for fitting stove and sawing wood, 4.11
	20.	Amos Webber, wood for Kate Johnson, 7.87
	25.	J. W. Roby, for Mrs. Shepard, 46.92
	26.	W. W. Kilburn, for boarding George Jackman, 1.40
1874.		
Jan.	1.	Apphia Thurston, for support of David Jackman, 78.83
	1.	I. K. Gage, house rent for Kate Johnson, 25.00
	1.	J. P. Sanders's bill for shoes for Kate Johnson, 9.50
	31.	A. M. Gage, wood for Kate Johnson, 4.00
Feb.	10.	A. G. Kimball, wood for Kate Johnson, 7.00
	14.	J. W. Roby, for Mrs. Shepard, to March 18, 1874, 42.08
	14.	Nathan Colby, for support of Ed. Gage, 104.00
	14.	Dr. Emery's bill for Kate Johnson, 18.25
	14.	G. M. Dudley, cloth for David Jackman, 3.04
	21.	Apphia Thurston, for David Jackman, 28.20
	24.	Hall & Foote, for Kate Johnson, 14.74
	24.	Hall & Foote, for Mrs. Shepard, 1.44

Paid—			
Feb.	24.	Hall & Foote, for David Jackman,	\$1.08
	24.	Hall & Foote, for Ezekiel Getchel,	4.79
	24.	J. C. Chadwick, for Ezekiel Getchel,	6.80
	24.	D. F. Kimball, for going to Lisbon on pauper case,	8.00
			\$874.82

BONDS, NOTES, AND INTEREST PAID IN 1873.

March	10.	Paid Penacook Bank, interest on note,	\$10.68
Aug.	19.	“ “ “	10.80
	21.	Note and interest,	589.20
	22.	Nathan Ayer's note and interest,	614.06
July	3.	Bonds,	3,000.00
		Interest in gold,	960.00
		Premium on gold,	144.00
			\$5,328.74

STATE AND COUNTY TAXES FOR 1873.

August	1.	Paid county tax,	\$1,453.43
Dec.	6.	state tax,	2,622.00
			\$4,075.43

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL-HOUSES.

1873. Paid—			
July	4.	John Jackman, prudential com., Dist. No. 1,	\$100.00
Dec.	16.	John Meder, agent for school-house, “	90.00
	31.	John Jackman,	20.00
Feb.	3.	John Jackman,	152.00
		John Meder, agent for Dist. No. 1,	610.00
June	30.	Samuel Marden, prudential com., Dist. No. 2,	36.00
Dec.	1.	“ “ “	54.00
July	16.	John Seavy, prudential com., Dist. No. 3,	65.00
Oct.	3.	“ school-house tax, “	20.00
Feb.	5.	“ prudential com., “	134.00
April	4.	Samuel Choate, “ “ Dist. No. 4,	11.00
June	30.	“ “ “ “	25.00
Aug.	17.	“ “ school-house tax, “	25.00
Feb.	4.	“ “ school money, “	69.00

Paid—

June 30.	Hollis Town, prudential com., Dist. No. 5,	\$52.00
Nov. 26.	“ “ “ “ “	63.00
July 1.	W. D. Colby, “ “ “ 6,	50.00
28.	“ “ “ “ “	56.00
	J. Chandler, “ “ “ 7,	275.00
Oct. 23.	“ “ “ “	200.00
Feb. 18.	“ “ “ “	337.00
July 15.	D. T. Hoag, “ “ “ 8,	32.00
Aug. 25.	“ “ “ “	21.00

 \$2,497.00

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

On J. P. Hubbard's collection for 1872,	\$78.09
S. Choate's collections for 1868-69,	106.28
J. P. Hubbard's collection for 1873,	25.63

\$210.00

Non-resident highway taxes worked out in 1873,	\$169.22
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TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid—

March 15.	C. E. Chadwick,	\$6.00
15.	D. F. Kimball, services as selectman,	8.00
15.	M. K. Howser, “	6.00
15.	S. B. Chadwick, “	6.00
15.	John Sevey, services as town clerk, 1871,	4.00
Feb. 26.	W. R. Jewett, school committee,	30.00
26.	E. E. Graves, “	40.00
26.	J. P. Hubbard, collector in 1873,	80.00
26.	N. Butler, treasurer, 1873,	25.00
26.	M. K. Howser, selectmen, 1873,	58.00
26.	S. B. Chadwick, “	52.00
26.	C. E. Chadwick, town clerk,	35.00
26.	D. F. Kimball,	110.00

 \$460.00

RECAPITULATION.

Miscellaneous bills,	\$879.04
Roads and bridges,	613.89
Support of county paupers,	446.56

Support of town paupers,	\$874.82
Bonds, notes, and interest paid,	5,328.74
Schools and school-houses,	2,497.00
Non-resident highway tax worked out,	168.54
Abatement of taxes,	210.00
Town officers,	460.00
State and county tax,	4,075.43

\$15,554.02

TOWN LIABILITIES.

Debt of town, March 1, 1874, in bonds,	\$13,000.00
Interest on bonds to March 1,	520.00

\$13,520.00

ASSETS.

Due on notes and interest,	\$586.36
J. P. Hubbard, collector for 1872,	46.94
" " 1873,	1,232.38
Due from J. P. Hubbard on D. E. Jones, collector for	
1871,	412.05
State bonds,	4,800.00
Interest on bonds to March 1,	48.00
Cash in treasury,	1,105.79

\$8,231.52

Balance against the town,	\$5,288.48
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D. F. KIMBALL,	} <i>Selectmen and Overseers</i>
M. K. HOWSER,	
S. B. CHADWICK,	

of the
Poor of Boscawen.

The undersigned, appointed to audit the accounts of the selectmen and treasurer of the town of Boscawen, for the year 1873 and 1874, report that they have examined said accounts, and find them properly vouched and correctly cast, with the exception of vouchers for \$41.28 non-resident highway taxes, and a difference between the accounts of the selectmen and treasurer of \$5.93, which amount remains in the hands of the selectmen.

CHARLES E. FOOTE,
N. R. GREELEY.

BOSCAWEN, March 3, 1874.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Fellow Citizens :

The schools that have been under my charge for the year past, have, with one or two exceptions, been conducted in a manner both pleasant and profitable to teachers and scholars. Quite a number of the teachers have had considerable experience in the school-room, and nearly all of those that had not, showed a desire to do all which lay in their power to improve those that were placed under their tuition. And the scholars in nearly every district manifested a greater desire for improvement than in any year previous, of which I have had a knowledge. Many of them seemed to realize that all the education, from books, that *they* would ever be able to obtain, was to come from the common school of their district, and that even *that* advantage they would not long enjoy. When a teacher is able to incite in the mind of a pupil the idea that time well spent in study brings knowledge, that knowledge is power, and power is money, they have performed one of the most difficult and perplexing operations in their school experience. Not every teacher can do this, with even the most intelligent of children, while a few there are that possess a faculty of accomplishing this difficult

undertaking in the minds of pupils whose faculties are obtuse, and whose previous advancement has been very tardy. If such scholars can be stimulated to action, although their progress to all appearance may not be as rapid as in those "that learn quickly and forget as readily as they seem to learn," it is sure and lasting, and of substantial benefit to them in after life. I can point out men to-day in this community, who had all the advantages of the common schools of their boyhood, who by simply reading a lesson once could repeat it, but in one week's time they could tell you scarcely anything about it. And there are others who had but few advantages, and who possessed perceptive faculties not the acutest, but are to-day better scholars and better business men than those who considered them dolts when they attended the same school a half century ago. This may seem strange to some, but it is a fact that will be sustained by any teacher of experience. The reason is simply this: the first took no thought of the little whys and wherefores, and did not trouble themselves to investigate anything, but took everything for fact because the book said so; while the others investigated everything, because they were obliged to understand it fully before they could be made to believe.

It has always been observed that man, as a rule, appreciates only that knowledge which he possesses himself. Let his education be ever so limited, those things to which he is a total stranger are regarded as unworthy of his or anybody else's investigation. He considers it a waste of time,—as time simply thrown away,—just because he has never had occasion or been obliged to make a critical examination for himself. You are probably all aware that there is a condition of the visual organs called color-blindness. By this is meant the inability which some persons have of distinguishing between certain colors. The most frequent form of color-blindness is that in which red and the colors in which it forms an

ingredient, as well as its accidental color green, are more or less indistinguishable. Thus, red appears to such persons to be simply a dark color ; or, the finer shades of red cannot be at all appreciated. Violet is distinguished, but is often mistaken for blue, whereas the difference between yellow and blue is readily recognized. Now, does any one think it just for such a person to contend that there is no red because he, from some optical defect, cannot see it as such? Can he reasonably persist in saying a thing is brown, when others, who have no visual defect of that particular kind, say it is purple? I think not. It is the total ignorance of everything relating to educational matters of the present day that calls forth so much bitter comment from those who attended our schools a half century ago. Most of them fail to see how everything has changed ; how educational affairs have advanced and they have receded. They fail to see any advancement, and contend that there has been none, simply because they have made no investigation. Almost all of this class, if they can be persuaded to investigate, will see their error, and nearly all will admit it, while a few from pure wilfulness will not.

It is a wise provision of Providence, that every person born into the world has some aptitude for a particular calling, and if he does not, from adverse forces, go into some other channel, he will be successful ; but if he is driven into some other channel, in the majority of cases he will make a failure. If a boy has a desire to become a machinist, he will hardly become a successful merchant ; and the same with other callings. There is not a parent in this community that does not wish his child to become successful in life ; but, nevertheless, there are young men among us to-day who might, if their parents had sent them back to school when they came home and said they would not attend, on account of

some little unpleasantness with the teacher, have been in positions both remunerative to themselves and beneficial to others. But, no. If my boy or girl does not like the teacher, or does not behave properly, he shall stay at home. Parents, are you, by so doing, trying to do your utmost toward giving your children a practical education? Are you trying to give them an education that will fit them for any calling in which they may see fit to engage? I contend that that parent, who neglects to see that his child attends fully to all his school duties, does him grievous wrong, and, by so doing, helps just so much to increase the number of idle and dependent, if not vicious members of society.

The man who says the school books used in the common schools of to-day are no better than those of twenty-five years ago, labors under a misapprehension, simply because he has not made an investigation for himself. He groans and frets because of the great amount he is obliged to pay for new books each term of school; but, most of all, he complains of the *frequent changes*. Gentlemen, on whom does the charge of frequent change rest in this town? A series of books on the subject of arithmetic was placed in your schools nearly six years ago, and you have discarded them in nearly every school, and have gone back to those that were in use before, or others worse; and, simply because a book was given you in place of the old ones, which were far behind the times—one that has practical, every-day problems, and no other—you raise the cry of “More new books!” and a few of you say, “*Down with them! we will have no more new books!*” Gentlemen, I can simply say that you have not investigated the matter; for if you had, the small sum which you would have paid would have been cheerfully given. And another thing: the law of the State is simple and plain when it says that only one series of books on a subject shall be used in our schools at a time. In one school, in particular, there were four different

books of the same grade. If one was used, another must be, or there would be trouble immediately. An entire change was the only thing that could be done without breaking the oath that a town officer is obliged to take when he says he "will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on him, according to the best of his ability," and such duties shall be in accordance with the laws of the State. There being so much bitter opposition from a portion of the parents in one district against a change in arithmetics, and not feeling myself particularly called upon to work in opposition to my oath of office, and my opponents not making a proper investigation, I resigned the office of school committee Dec. 15, 1873.

For the benefit of those who accused me of "making something out of it" (the introduction of new arithmetics), I append a statement of my account. Had not the publisher been more liberal than the contract, the "make" would have been much larger.

Paid for books, less dis.,	\$28.35	
express and postage,	2.18	
loss and damage,	1.28	
		\$31.81
Received for books,		31.50
Loss,		.31

E. E. GRAVES.

Boscawen, Feb. 28, 1874.

The Superintending School Committee submits the following

REPORT:

As I have had the oversight only of the winter schools, with the exception of district No. 7, my report will be confined to them.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Winter Term. Harry F. Towle, teacher. This young gentleman is, as I suppose, possessed of good qualifications. In his report he states "that the great difficulty in this district is the want of coöperation with the teacher on the part of the parents. In almost every case of discipline, however slight, the part of the pupil has been taken by the parents,—in two cases by removing him from school. It is very embarrassing to a teacher to be thus situated. I am persuaded that had I administered discipline in every case, when in my opinion it was for the good of the school, at least one half of the pupils would have left. Ought this so to be?"

The committee would call the attention of the district to these views of the teacher, and would hope that the difficulty will be remedied. Parents should coöperate with their teacher in helping him in his labors, and encourage their children in the performance of their duties. In this school the science of music has been taught to some extent the past winter. The appearance of the school at the close was good. I should judge that the teacher had been faithful in the discharge of his duties.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Upon visiting this school at the close of the winter term, I found only four scholars present. The average attendance was three. I saw nothing to condemn in the appearance of the school; but it is too small to be profitable.

The district needs scholars more than dollars. This district and No. 6 were once united in one district. In view of the small number of children, particularly in the upper district, I would strongly recommend the union of the two. As far as I am acquainted with the facts, this is the best measure that can be taken for the interests of education in that quarter.

DISTRICT No. 3.

The appearance of a large portion of the scholars at the close was creditable, yet I am afraid that this has been a hard school for a young man who was making his first attempt at teaching.

As the school-house is not in very good repair, may it not be well for this district to unite with No. 1, as has been proposed in former years. They could then have a graded school.

DISTRICT No. 4.

I found rather a poor school-house, and a small number of pupils, but the appearance of the school was creditable, both to them and their teacher.

DISTRICT No. 5.

The winter term had closed before I had assumed the supervision of the schools.

DISTRICT No. 6.

The appearance of the school was good, and the register was kept with much neatness and accuracy. I would repeat the opinion that I have already given, that districts No. 2 and No. 6 unite. It is impossible to maintain a school of a high order where there are but few scholars. The union of South and North Water districts would only make a school of fair numbers.

DISTRICT No. 7.

The schools in this district have been excellently managed, and have given general satisfaction. I have never known so little fault found as during the past year. The same teachers have been employed for nearly three years. There is a manifest advantage in retaining the services of one who has already succeeded well in the community.

The State laws for compulsory attendance has had, I think, a good effect, and has been well executed. Of one hundred and ninety-three children and youth between the ages of four and twenty-one, one hundred and seventy-six have been connected with some of the schools.

As a rule of the district forbids children under five to attend, the number who have not availed themselves of the privilege of attendance must be small. Our State recognizes children as of school age between the years of four and twenty-one. The district rule is preferable to that of the State. Children should not be sent to school under five, perhaps not under six years of age.

Our experience in this district has shown the wisdom of ordinarily employing females as teachers. Of course, it would be folly to assert that all female teachers are superior. But it is certain, that in the position of teachers they have often shown a tact in training and governing pupils of all ages and both sexes, for which they have hardly received due credit. It is easier to find well qualified young women for the business of instruction, than well qualified young men.

I am sorry to say, that the examination of the school registers in this district will show the names of five ladies for one of a gentlemen, which indicates that they either have more leisure, or else take a much greater interest in the prosperity of the schools than those of the masculine gender.

DISTRICT No. 8.

No winter school, and only three are reported as attending in the summer. I wish that this district could unite with some other. It puzzles me to discern how school money can be employed judiciously and economically on three pupils.

Judging from the registers, there has been an improvement, so far as regards attendance, in most of our schools. Cases of tardiness and absence are less common than formerly. Though this topic may be threadbare, yet I venture to recur to it. If, through improper indulgence, or any trifling reason, the parent suffers his child to be absent, he inflicts positive injury not only on his child but on the whole school. Children and youth should be taught to be prompt and constant in attendance, if for no other reason, to form in them the habit of punctuality in early life.

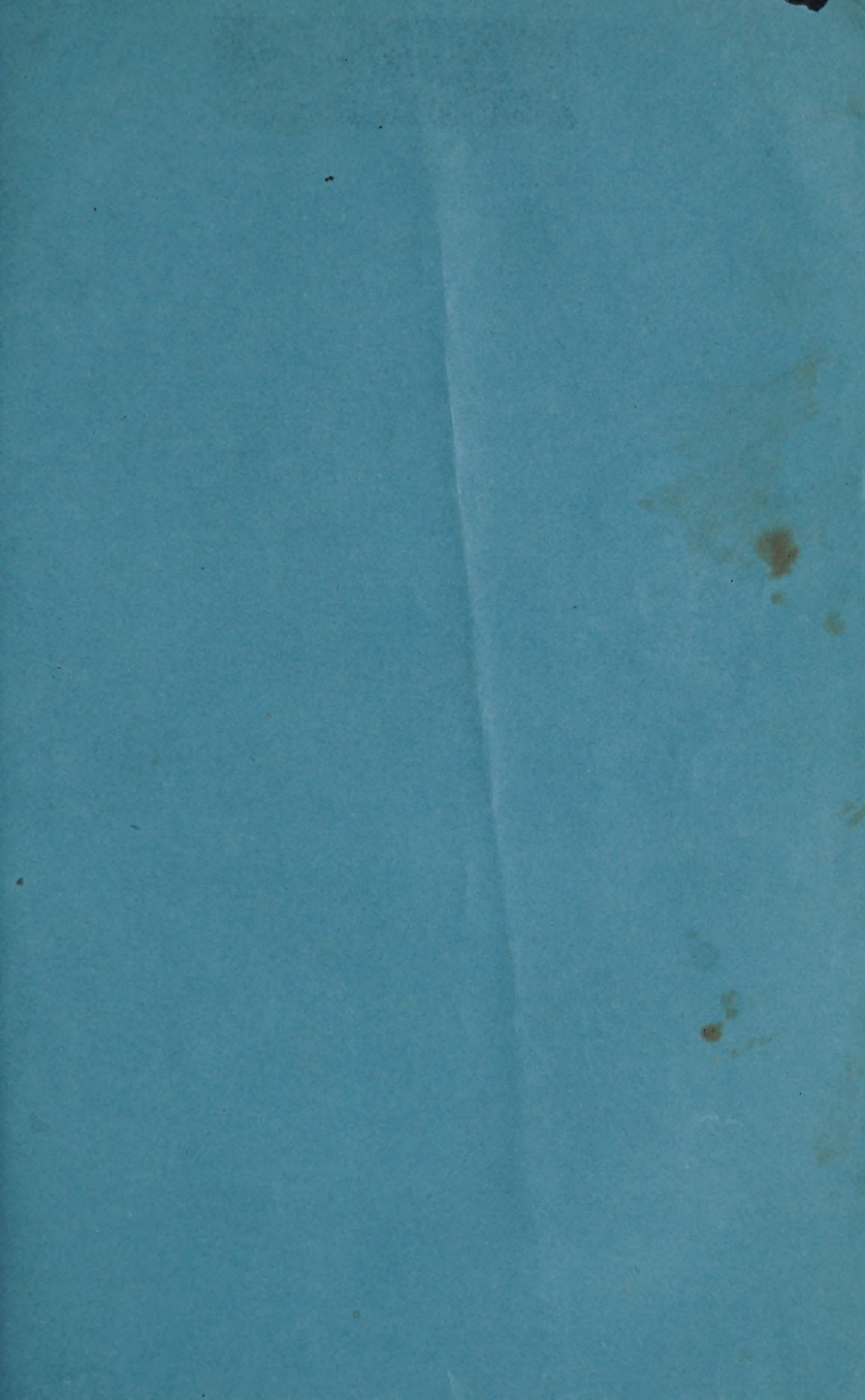
In concluding, I would earnestly advise our citizens to visit the schools more, to encourage the children, to select good teachers, and then be careful to sustain them. In this way our schools will reach a higher standard than they have yet attained.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. R. JEWETT.

Superintending School Committee.

Fisherville, Feb. 26, 1874.



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